

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-22 are pending in this application, wherein claims 1-9, 11, and 14-22 are hereby amended. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on March 29, 2005 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document, and that the IDS was not considered. The IDS is filed with this response includes copies of the Japanese references cited March 29, 2005 IDS. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the newly filed IDS.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 are objected to as containing grammatical informalities. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 have been amended to correct inadvertent grammatical errors. The amendments fully address all of the informalities identified in the objections and Applicants request that the objections to the claims as containing informalities be withdrawn.

Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to claim 18 as depending from a canceled claim be withdrawn.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16-18, and 22 have been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter for which Applicants seek protection and to explicitly identify antecedent basis for the terms identified in the Office Action. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims fully address the issued identified in the Office Action as rendering the claims indefinite, and request withdrawal of the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended as suggested in the Office Action, and Applicants request that the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11 and 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,067,499 issued to Yagyu et al. ("Yagyu"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a computer product requiring "integrated name data each set of which that provides common name information for a road passing through a plurality of the map area blocks in common with the map area blocks"

Applicants submit that Yagyu does not anticipate claim 1 because Yagyu does not disclose the above identified feature of claim 1.

The Office Action cites Fig. 7A-C, Fig. 8A-D and corresponding portions of specification; col. 2, lines 8-27; col. 8, line 31 - col. 9, line 29; Fig. 13, element (E) and corresponding portions of specification as disclosing the above identified feature of claim 1.¹ The cited portions of Yagyu merely disclose integrating road crossing data to reduce the number of crossings considered when determining an optimum route. Yagyu discloses that a plurality of approximate nodes are integrated with each other, but does not disclose common name data for a plurality of map area blocks in common with the map area blocks. Accordingly, Yagyu does not anticipate claim 1 for at least this reason.

Independent claim 3 recites a method that requires “generating integrated name data by integrating name information for a single road in the extracted name data, so as to provide common name information for the single road in common with the map area blocks.” Independent claim 6 recites an apparatus that requires an integrating device that “generates integrated name data by integrating name information for a single road in the name data extracted by the extraction device so as to provide common name information for the single road in common with the map area blocks.” The above identified features of claims 3 and 6 are similar to feature of claim 1 discussed above, and the Office Action

¹ Office Action at page 7, first paragraph.

rejects claims 3 and 6 for the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants' arguments regarding claim 1 are equally applicable to claims 3 and 6, and Applicants submit that Yagyu does not anticipate claims 3 and 6 for reasons similar to those given for claim 1 above.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7-11, and 14-22 each depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 3, and 6 respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Yagyu does not anticipate the dependent claims at least by way of their dependencies from claims 1, 3, and 6.

Further, claims 2, 4, and 7 require the distribution map data to include the road data in each of a plurality of map layers set in correspondence to different specific scaling factors, wherein "the integrated name data provides the common name information for the road in common with the plurality of map layers." Applicants submit that Yagyu does not disclose at least this feature required by claims 2, 4, and 7.

The Office Action cites col. 10, lines 1-7; Fig. 15 A-B, col. 15, line 50 - col. 16, line 4; Fig. 24A-B, col. 21, line 63 - col. 22, line 20 as disclosing the above identified feature.² Yagyu merely states that the route selection data records the road system data in a divided manner by partitioning the road data into units. There is no disclosure in Yagyu of providing integrated name data that provides

² Office Action at page 9, first paragraph.

the common name information for a plurality of map layers that correspond to different scale factors as required by claims 2, 4, and 7. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Yagyu does not anticipate claims 2, 4, and 7 for at least this additional reason. Claims 14-16, 18, 19, and 21 depend directly or indirectly from claims 4 and 7. Yagyu does not anticipate these claims at least by way of their dependencies from claims 4 and 7.

Dependent claims 5, 8, 14, and 15 require extracting road data and name data contained in an area ranging over a predetermined width along the route based upon the road map data. The Office Action cites Fig. 19A-D, Fig 21 and related portions as disclosing this feature of the claims. Figures 19A-D and Figure 21 of Yagyu relate to route selection processing for selecting an optimum route to a destination. Yagyu does not disclose extracting road and name data contained in an area ranging over a predetermined width along the route based upon the road map data. Accordingly, Yagyu does not anticipate claims 5, 8, 14, and 15 for at least this additional reason.

Dependent claims 10 and 19-21, each recite “a first position determining device that determines display positions at which the names of the roads on the route are displayed by the display device based upon road types of the roads on the route.” The Office Action cites Figure 25A and the related text of Yagyu as disclosing this feature of claims 10 and 19-21. Yagyu merely discloses an exemplary road system includes Routes 12 and 321 (see Fig. 25A and column 22,

lines 21-41). Yagyu does not disclose determining display positions at which the names of the roads on the route are displayed by the display device based upon road types of the roads on the route. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Yagyu does not anticipate claims 10 and 19-21 for at least this additional reason.

Dependent claims 11 and 22 require a second position determining device that determines display positions of the names of the roads on the route to be parallel to inclinations of the route. The Office Action cites Figure 13 and the associated text as disclosing this feature. Figure 13 of Yagyu does not show the names for roads, and the associated text merely describes roads which are preferably integrated with each other in the creation of route selection data from the original data.³ Yagyu is silent regarding the above-identified features of claims 11 and 22 and accordingly does not anticipate claims 11 and 22 for at least this additional reason.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

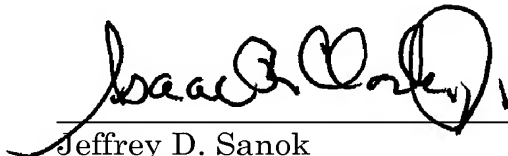
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

³ Yagyu at col. 13, line 57 through col. 14 line 23.

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,

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